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| PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT Address to: Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | Attorney Docket Confirmation No. | UCAL250CON4 4393 |
| | First Named Inventor | M. LaVail |
| | Application Number | 08/897,390 |
| | Filing Date | July 21, 1997 |
| | Group Art Unit | 1647 |
| | Examiner Name | R.C. Hayes |
| | Title | <i>Prevention of retinal injury and degeneration by specific factors</i> |

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. This Preliminary Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action dated February 24, 2003, for which a three-month period for response was given, making this response due on or before May 24, 2003. *A Petition for a three-Month Extension of Time is submitted herewith, making this amendment due on or before August 24, 2003.* Accordingly, this Preliminary Amendment is timely filed.

In view of the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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